

Walford Primary School
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted Inspection of Walford Primary School, 27th June 2017

As you are aware, we were visited recently by an Ofsted Inspector, Mrs McGill, who met with myself, Mrs Hanham (DHT), staff, parents and pupils. The inspector also conducted a formal meeting with Mr Deneen (Chair of Governors) and Mrs Parkes (Vice Chair of Governors). Throughout the inspection, Mrs McGill observed lessons, talked to pupils about their learning, looked at pupils' books, scrutinised safeguarding procedures, recruitment and vetting checks, the website and the school's self-evaluation documentation. In addition, Mrs McGill reviewed 18 staff and 21 pupil responses to the online inspection questionnaire, together with 41 responses to Parent View. On behalf of staff and governors, I would like to extend our sincere and personal thanks to everybody who completed these and for those of you who took the time to speak to the inspector directly – your incredible support has been completely overwhelming and appreciated greatly.

I am delighted to report that, once again, the Ofsted inspector was extremely positive about the work we all do at the school. The inspection, which is one of the new 'short' inspections undertaken by Ofsted, has endorsed the findings of our 2013 inspection. The school remains *Good* overall with *Outstanding* Leadership and Management.

The feedback letter I received following the inspection visit is available on the school website and will be published on the Ofsted website on Friday, 21st July 2017. The inspector included the following points:

- The leadership team and governors work with dynamism, determination and commitment to make sure that the school has continued to move forward and to build on its many strengths and successes. As a result, the quality of teaching and learning has been strengthened and outcomes for pupils have improved.
- Walford is a warm, open and friendly place.
- Parents were unanimous in saying that their children are happy and enjoy school, so much so, that they want to attend school on Saturdays too.
- One parent accurately summed up the school's approach, saying, "All things, not just academic achievement, are valued and given time – music, dance, sports, hobbies and talents. My child has received a fantastic, all-round primary education!"
- Parents feel welcome in school and they can raise matters with the Headteacher and staff at any time.



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- Relationships between adults, between adults and pupils and between pupils themselves are strong.
- Pupils have many opportunities to take responsibility and to act as leaders.
- Pupils are friendly, well-mannered and respectful.
- Pupils are keen to learn and responsive to their teachers.
- The Headteacher and governors have built a strong and supportive team who have a high degree of expertise.
- Walford is by no means insular – it is an outward looking school and staff are more than willing to share knowledge and expertise with other schools both within Herefordshire and beyond.
- The wider curriculum excites pupils' curiosity and enthusiasm.
- Work is well presented and of high quality.
- The school building and the learning environment, both in classrooms and outdoors, are immaculate.
- School leaders have dealt with all issues raised in the previous inspection successfully.
- The school emphasises the development of pupils' learning behaviours, including confidence, resilience and initiative.

As in all inspections, there was a keen focus upon safeguarding. The inspector noted that keeping pupils safe is a key priority and remains at the forefront of everyone's minds at Walford, whilst staff, pupils and parents agreed that pupils are kept safe at school. Mrs McGill also confirmed that senior leaders and governors have established a strong safeguarding culture at Walford Primary School.

The next steps recommended for the school is to continue to strive to boost the achievement of boys so that it matches that of girls. Although all pupils do well at Walford, there are differences in the achievement of boys and girls. Boys achieve well, and some attain highly (well above national averages), but girls typically attain more highly than boys. The inspector recognised that the school has already taken action to boost boys' achievement with the introduction of a number of strategies to enthuse and motivate boys to do even better. The achievement of boys' is indeed a national issue. The school will, of course, continue to work hard to further improve outcomes for boys to enable them to attain the very highest standards.

The most pleasing comment in the entire letter for me is: "Parents who spoke to the Ofsted inspector at the start of the day and those who commented online were unanimous in saying that their children are happy and enjoy school, so much so, that they want to come on Saturdays too!"

Thank you all for your continued support of the school – it is appreciated greatly.

Yours sincerely,



Ms L George
Headteacher



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